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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT UCEA Chemical Plant: Location/Plant Site/Production/
Power Supply/Personnel/SecurityPLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

ORR NO.	
DAS NO.	
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DATE DISTR. 4 Jan 1954

DATE

SOURCE

1. "The UCEA Chemical Plant comes under the administration of the SOVROMCHIM organization. [REDACTED]"

Location

2. "The UCEA Chemical Plant is located about 12 km south of Ucea-de-Jos, on a branch of the road which runs from Fagaras, via Ucea-de-Jos, to Sibiu. The site is north-northeast of Mt Negoil in the Fagaras Mountains."
3. "The plant has good communications links with the outside world:
- (a) The road from Ucea-de-Jos to the plant branches off from the national highway between Fagaras and Sibiu. It is paved with asphalt and is about five meters wide. It served the chemical plant exclusively.
 - (b) A normal-sized railway line runs to the plant from the railway station at Ucea-de-Jos. It runs parallel to the branch road and close to it. Both the road and the railway pass through the main entrance of the plant and split up into sidings.
 - (c) A telephone line runs parallel to the railway. It serves the plant through the telephone central station at Ucea-de-Jos. [REDACTED]
 - (d) I do not know whether the plant has a (TFF) wireless station. [REDACTED]

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Site

4. "Construction of this plant was started 1941-42 by German and Rumanian military units who worked closely with the TODT organization and Rumanian construction firms.
5. "The buildings are scattered through an area of 32 sq km. The whole area is heavily forested, so the buildings appear lost among the trees. This whole plant area is surrounded by barbed wire fencing.
6. "Outside the barbed wire fencing, on the eastern side of the road to the main plant entrance, are three brick barracks known as the 'workers' colony'.

Production

7. "Production at this plant during World War II was limited. Prior, or perhaps after, the Rumanian armistice of 23 Aug 44, the German Army dismantled certain parts of the plant, known in Rumanian as saibe. As a result certain parts of the plant were no longer able to operate, and were still not able to operate as of June 1952.
8. "The plant produced chemical materials for both civilian and military needs. In spring 1952 it seemed that the entire plant might become the property of the Armed Forces Ministry (MFA).
9. "The production includes:
 - Dynamite
 - Oxygen: Enclosed in standard steel containers ('bottles').
 - Nitrogen (azote)
 - Gunpowder
 - 'Starch': For flamethrowers. The starch plant was also known as the 'potato plant'. Actually the building was being used no longer for the manufacture of starch but for experiments on the production of butyl alcohol for the launching of V-2 weapons. This particular division of the UCEA Plant was shut down from 1950 to early 1952. Only uniformed Soviet military technicians and civilian German technicians work there. Rumanian workers are used only for loading and unloading potatoes. The Rumanians are told only that a new fermentation process is being developed for the 'preservation of potatoes'.

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In several buildings various acids [REDACTED] were being produced in June 1952. New buildings were under construction.

Raw Materials

1. "All raw materials for the UCEA plant are brought in via the railway line.

Power Supply

- .. "The electric power station at the plant is supplied by water from the Valea Vistei River, originating in the Vistei spring through a natural waterfall. This water is accumulated in underground cement 'basins' in the southern part of the plant site.

Management

1. "A Soviet 'civilian committee' supervises and inspects all production.

Labor

- .. "About 5000 civilian workers are employed at the plant. Some of the civilian workers are local people who live in the nearby villages, including Vistei-de-Sus. About 2000 civilian workers known as Stacili are lodged in the barracks of the 'workers' colony. These barracks have triple-decker wooden berths. The workers complain of low salaries and bad food.

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14. "As of June 1952 units of the DGSM were constructing new buildings at two points on the plant site.

Security

15. "There are observation posts along the barbed wire fencing which surrounds the plant site. These are manned both day and night. At night military units patrol inside and outside the fencing.
16. "The UCEA plant uses about 400 members of the Industrial Militia and the Securite de Paza for surveillance purposes.
17. "The management tries to isolate the workers so that they just know about their own particular phases of production."

[Available at the CIA Map Library is a rough sketch map prepared by the source of the location and layout of the UCEA Chemical Plant. The scale is about 1:50,000. The informant says that the precise location of the plant is about 60% accurate. A legend is attached. To borrow map - call code 143, ext. 2596. Map call number - 34697-R]

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